AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CLAIMS

1-56. (canceled)

57. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing with the pressure source being contained within the housing, and a hollow connecting element communicatively coupled between the biopsy needle module and the pressure source;

wherein the biopsy device ~~can be held in a single hand of~~ is configured for entirely single-handed operation by a physician, the biopsy device being self-contained and having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

58. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the biopsy needle module comprises a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle.

59. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 58, wherein the pressure source comprises a vacuum pressure-generating device having a piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via a connecting element, forming an airtight connection therewith.

60. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 58, further comprising a clamping carriage contained within the housing.

61. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein the biopsy needle module can be connected to the clamping carriage such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping carriage.

62. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 61, further comprising a first and second drive unit contained within the housing.

63. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 62, wherein the clamping carriage is connected to the first drive unit.

64. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 63, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the first drive unit, the cutting sleeve being axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

65. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the power source comprises at least one battery.

66. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 57, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls of different heights, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment, wherein the second end lid comprises a first U-shape opening and a second U-shape opening, wherein each of the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening is configured to receive a respective intermediate portion of the removable element.

67. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 66, wherein the first ~~housing~~ end lid comprises a third U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the third U-shaped opening being sized to receive a front portion of the removable element.

68. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim [[68]] 66, wherein ~~the second housing lid comprises a first and second U-shape opening at the top thereof, wherein each of said opening is sized to receive a portion of the removable element~~ at least a portion of the

hollow connecting element extends between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening external to the housing.

69. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 57, further comprising a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source.

70. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 69, wherein the control panel is connected to a circuit board.

71. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

72. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 70, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

73. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

74. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein each of the keys has a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

75. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 72, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

76. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 60, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

77. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

78. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 76, wherein actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

79. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 78, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate at a plurality of distances.

80. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 79, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate a distance which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

81. (withdrawn) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source; and

a removable element configured for integration into the housing, comprising:

a biopsy needle module comprising a biopsy needle and a cutting sleeve, the biopsy needle comprising a sharpened distal end and a distal opening for collection of tissue, the cutting sleeve having a cutting blade on the distal end thereof and being coaxially positioned with respect to the biopsy needle, and

a pressure source comprising a vacuum pressure-generating device having a piston/cylinder arrangement, the vacuum pressure-generating device being connected to a proximal end of the biopsy needle via a connecting element, forming an airtight connection therewith,

wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

82. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 81, further comprising a clamping carriage contained within the housing.

83. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 82, wherein the biopsy needle module can be connected to the clamping carriage such that the biopsy needle module is longitudinally displaceable by the clamping carriage.

84. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 83, further comprising a first and second drive unit contained within the housing.

85. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 84, wherein the clamping carriage is connected to the first drive unit.

86. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 85, wherein the cutting sleeve is connected to the first drive unit, the cutting sleeve being axially movable relative to the biopsy needle.

87. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 82, wherein a locking mechanism is contained within the housing to lock the clamping cradle, the locking mechanism comprising a handle having an arm, wherein the arm locks into a depression in the clamping cradle.

88. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 87, wherein the clamping cradle is comprised of a plastic material and the handle is comprised of a metal material, wherein a metal part is positioned within the depression.

89. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 87, wherein actuation of the clamping cradle causes the biopsy needle to penetrate into a patient a predetermined distance.

90. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 89, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate at a plurality of distances.

91. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 90, wherein the clamping cradle can be set to penetrate a distance which is in the range between approximately 15 mm and 25 mm.

92. (withdrawn) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source and a circuit board;

a control panel attached to the housing, wherein the control panel is connected to the power source and the circuit board; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing;

wherein the biopsy device can be held in a single hand of a physician, having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

93. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the circuit board has a programmable microprocessor disposed thereon.

94. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 92, wherein the control panel comprises a control key for actuating a clamping cradle, a program key for actuating a tissue sampling procedure and a clamping key for triggering clamping of the clamping cradle.

95. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the program key is positioned between the control key and clamping key to avoid accidental actuation of the clamping cradle.

96. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein each of the keys have a light associated therewith that indicates whether the key is active.

97. (withdrawn) The biopsy device according to claim 94, wherein the clamping key is equipped with a delay circuit to prevent inadvertent pressing thereof.

98. (currently amended) A biopsy device for tissue collection, comprising:

a housing containing a power source, wherein the housing comprises a lower housing segment with lateral walls ~~of different heights~~, a housing lid matched to the lower housing segment and having a

longitudinally displaceable locking mechanism, and a first end lid and a second end lid, each connected to the lower housing segment; and

a removable element, comprising a biopsy needle module and a pressure source, wherein the removable element is configured for integration into the housing;

wherein the biopsy device ~~can be held in a single hand of~~ is configured for single-handed operation by a physician, the biopsy device being self-contained and having no cables or lines extending from the housing to external units.

99. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim 98, wherein the first ~~housing~~ end lid comprises a U-shaped opening at the top thereof, the opening sized to receive a portion of the removable element.

100. (currently amended) The biopsy device according to claim [[99]] 98, wherein the second ~~housing~~ end lid comprises a first U-shape opening and second U-shape opening ~~at the top thereof~~, wherein each of ~~said opening is sized to receive a portion of the removable element~~ the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening is configured to receive a respective portion of the removable element, with at least a portion of the hollow connecting element extending between the first U-shape opening and the second U-shape opening.